Stopping the construction work of Bhuj HPT Tower

1073. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction work of Bhuj HPT Tower has been stopped due to a fault discovered in the sub-strata soil ;

(b) whether the site is likely to be shifted ;

(c) whether any preliminary survey has been carried out in this respect and if so, the results thereof?

(d) whether Government have received any representation from the people voicing their concern over the inordinate delay in the construction of the tower ; and

(e) what action Government propose to take in this regard and by when Bhuj HPT is slikely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA) : (a) to (e) A statSment containing the requisite information is attached.

Statement

The work for construction of 300 metre high RCC tower for establishment of a high power (10KW) TV transmitter at Bhuj was awarded to M/s. Engineering Projects (India) Ltd. (EPI), a Public Sector Undertaking, in March, 1989 after conducting detailed soil tests through a specialised Agency. The work was, however, suspended by the contractor in November, 1989 after a geological fault was observed during excavation of the tower foundation. Additional tests were carried out and it was decided to shift the location of the tower within the existing site to ensure safety of the tower. The contractor was accordingly, advised to resume work at the revised location immediately.

Press reports and representations were received from time to time about the possible delay in implementation of the project. The high power transmitter is expected to be commissioned into service during 1993 on constructions of the power.

Import of telecom equipment to accelerate development of Telecom service in the Country

1074. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering import of telecom equipment to accelerate development of telecom services in the country ;

(b) whether Government have identified any foreign technology suitable to this country; if so the details thereof ;

(c) whether Government are also considering the adoption of cellular mobile telephone equipment for rural telephone exchanges programme and whether this technology is likely to replace the existing C-DOT technology for rural telecom network ; and

(d) what was the actual quantum of telecom equipment imported last year, its total cost and foreign exchange involved and what are the projections for import in the current year and next fiscal year?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.